

September 24, 1958

Dr. Ruth T. Gross
Department of Pediatrics
Stanford Medical School
San Francisco 15, California

Dear Dr. Gross:

This is a hasty and preliminary reply to your telephone call yesterday. I'm just rushing off on a trip to Washington and I thought you might like to have my first thoughts in answer to your question right away.

I'm afraid, for the best I can find out, there just isn't anything going on in Rome that you could justifiably be interested in.

On the other hand there is quite an active group in the University of Pavia which includes cooperation with other institutions in the general area of Milan. As I indicated, for example, Dr. Cavalli lives in Milan, does most of his work in Pavia, but also has collaborative arrangements in Parma and elsewhere. As far as Italy is concerned I think this would certainly be your very best bet. I would suggest, if you want to follow this up, that you write immediately either to Dr. L. L. Cavalli, Institute of Genetics, University of Pavia, Via Sant' Epifanio, 14, Pavia, Italy, or to Dr. Adriano Buzzatti-Terverso at the same address. Buzzatti is the director of the Institute. They are both splendid people and I am sure you would enjoy the association on both a personal as well as a professional basis.

The best I can recommend to you elsewhere in Europe would be, in Copenhagen, the Institute of Dr. Tage Kemp, University Institute for Human Genetics, Tagensvej 14, Copenhagen N, Denmark. Kemp is a very well known figure in clinical genetics but his interests in the past have been mainly along family collecting and biometrical rather than experimental physiological lines. However there may very well be new developments that would pertain more closely to your own interests. In Paris the most familiar name that comes to mind is Maurice Lamy who has been associated with work on galactosemia but I don't really know very much more about him.

I will try to dig up more information for you if I can but there will be a little delay. Meanwhile I think you might be able to identify the fields of interest of these people by looking them up through the abstracts journals.

To return to Italy, it's fair to say that there are only two centers of genetic work in that country, one around Milan and the other, perhaps not so

flourishing, near Naples. I think the Milan group may have what you are looking for, although they are just really getting under way in biochemical studies. I know, however, that Cavalli himself has been interested in the genetic determination of the amino acid-urias and this may give you some of the material you are interested in.

Needless to say I am just delighted in this turn in your interests, and am looking forward to a happy collaboration in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/jp

P.S. I took it for granted that you really were quite keen about not going to England but do give me a chance again to stress how much interesting and important work is going on in the field. While one can sympathize with your feelings about London, while not necessarily sharing them, I would also mention that Cambridge is an extremely active center at the present time and I could think of fewer concentrations of interest that would be more fruitful in future work than a chance to work, say, with Sanger or with Crick or the people around them.

To turn once again to Italy I should not think that Milan would afford any special problems as far as your son's education is concerned, as Dr. Cavalli assures me that there are excellent schools and that housing is not a terribly difficult problem.